Our Lady's, St John's Wood & Our Lady of the Rosary, Marylebone

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parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood
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https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw



Service Times

St John's Wood

Sunday Mass
6:00pm (Sat, Vigil),
9:00am, 12:15pm, 6:00pm

Weekday Mass
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 10:00am

Adoration
Saturday 10.30am - 11.00am

Confessions
Saturday 10:30am - 11:00am,
5:15pm - 5:45pm

Marylebone

Sunday Mass
10:45am (Sung)

Weekday Mass
Monday & Wednesday 12:30pm
Friday 6:30pm

Confessions & Adoration
Friday 5:30pm - 6:15pm

DONATE

Please scan the QR code below to donate to our parishes

St John's Wood **Marylebone**

+THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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Priests in Glass Houses

When Bishop John Arnold asked me what I missed most about the army, I jokingly told him that it was dressing up. He wrote that down and his observation exists to this day in my file at Archbishop's House.

Over the past few weeks, Kathleen has been asking people to volunteer for various ministries in our parishes. These are essential for the smooth running of our liturgies and other activities. God bless all of you who do so much to free me to do sacramental and pastoral work.

But it has always amazed me, particularly in St John's Wood, that we don't have many altar servers. It surprises me particularly because it is one of the loveliest and most helpful ways in which children and young people can become more involved in the life of the Church.

Returning to "dressing up," while serving does provide a uniform, it is much more than simply wearing a cassock and cotta, or even carrying a candle or helping the priest at the altar. It gives you a special opportunity to understand the Mass more deeply and to take an active part in the central worship of the Church. By being close to the altar, listening carefully to the prayers – especially the priest's secret ones – you will learn why we do what we do. You will also grow in your friendship with Christ and in confidence and understanding of our Catholic faith.

Now before you say that it all looks rather complicated, rest assured that you do not need to know everything before you begin — that is what training is for and I didn't have a clue what I was doing when I started at the age of seven. Nor do you need to be especially confident. Some of our best servers began rather nervously and soon discovered how enjoyable and rewarding serving can be. And this boosted their self-assurance in other areas too.

Interestingly, seminaries didn't exist in the earliest days of the Church. Thus, trainee priests learned how to say Mass by being altar servers. Could it be that the decline in vocations is related to fewer servers?

So, parents, and grandparents, and all of you, encourage children who have made their First Holy Communion to talk to me after Mass. These conversations are important as children are often more willing to volunteer when they know that adults value what they are doing. I certainly value this way of giving something back to the parish and and would ask you to talk, think and pray about it most seriously.

And if your primary motive is to dress up, well, it"s a start and anyway, who am I to judge? *Canon Kevin*

Contact Information

Parish Clergy
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Musical Director (SJW)
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Parish Diary

Children's Liturgy of the Word
SJW - 9:00am, term time

Tea and Coffee
SJW- after 9:00am Mass, term time
MB - 8 November

Parent/Toddler Group - SJW Upper hall
9:30am - 11:30am Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, term time

Legion of Mary - MB
after 12:30pm Mass, Wednesdays

Parish Notices

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Appeal will take place this weekend focusing on its work supporting persecuted Christians in Pakistan. The appeal will also highlight ACN's Article 18 advocacy campaign, which calls for the protection of religious freedom. Parishioners will be invited to sign the petition urging the UK Government and the United Nations to uphold this fundamental human right. QR codes are available below to make it easy to sign the petition and support ACN's work. A trade stall will offer handmade devotional items from the Holy Land and copies of Blood and Water: The Life and Martyrdom of Shahbaz Bhatti. On Sunday 25 October, Peter Bhatti, brother of Shahbaz Bhatti, the Servant of God, will give a talk in the parish hall at St John's Wood, after the 6:00pm Mass. All are welcome.

Donate here

Sign the Article 18 Petition

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2027. Application forms for both sacraments will be available to collect from Canon Kevin or Sr Brigid after Mass. Confirmation candidates must collect the forms themselves. Please post completed forms through the presbytery door at either parish by 12 noon on Tuesday 1 December.

Join March for Life UK on Tuesday 27 October from 12 noon until 2:00pm in Parliament Square, marking 59 years since the Abortion Act was passed. Join in to remind our nation that abortion hurts the family. Banners will be provided for you to carry. For further details please visit info@marchforlife.co.uk or call 07773 501 721. Please also see the poster in the porches.

Our Lady Queen of Palestine Mass takes place on Wednesday 28 October, at 6:30pm at St Patrick's, Soho Square. Mass is followed by refreshments and a discussion with Fr Bashar Fawadleh and Bishop James Curry, on the situation facing Christians in the Holy Land. RSVP: westminstersecretary@eohsj.org.uk

November is the month of the Holy Souls. Please take an envelope and sheet as you leave church to list your deceased loved ones. Return it to the presbytery with any offering. Names will be entered in the Book of Remembrance, displayed in each sanctuary throughout November. Four Masses each week will be offered for those listed.

The Solemnity of All Saints falls next Sunday 1 November and is a Holy Day of Obligation. It will be celebrated at all Sunday Masses, including the Saturday Vigil.

All Souls' Day will be celebrated on Monday 2 November with Masses at 10:00am at St John's Wood and 12:30pm at Marylebone.

Bi-Annual Concelebrated Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green Monday 2 November 11:30.am.

Remembrance Sunday, 9 November. The 12:15pm Mass in St John's Wood will be a Solemn Requiem for the Fallen and will conclude with the Act of Remembrance.

UCM Christmas Family Fayre takes place on Sunday 29 November in the parish hall at St John's Wood after the 9:00am Mass. Children's tickets cost £5, payable on the door, and include a visit from Father Christmas, a children's book, crafts and games. Festive refreshments, a raffle and silent auction are open to all. Everyone is welcome.